Opening of Bank Branches in Orissa

988. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open a few branches of various nationalised banks in rural and tribal areas of Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Under the Extant Branch Licensing Policy, the decision for opening of a bank branch at a particular centre has been left to the discretion of the banks themselves subject to obtaining *prior* licence from Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The banks take action in the matter after assessing the established need for banking *vis-a-vis* financial viability of the proposed branch. The RBI have authorized the public sector banks for opening of branches in almost all States including Orissa.

RBI have reported that as on 31.3.2000 there are 538 branches of various nationalized banks functioning in rural centres of Orissa. RBI have also reported that banks may open branches at the following centres in Orissa which form a part of the Districts with sizeable tribal population.

Sl.No	Centre	District	Category	Name of Bank
1.	Baripada	Mayurbhanj	Tribal District	Indian Overseas Bank
2.	Dharamgarh	Kalahandi	Tribal District	Indian Overseas Bank
3.	Behrampore	Behrampore	Rural	Dena Bank
4.	Gopalpur	Ganjam	Rural	Bank of Baroda

Opening of these branches depends on the finalization of premises, infrastructure, staff posting etc.